

The Rhubarb Connection and Other Revelations

The Everyday World of Metal Ions

Lars Öhrström and Jacques Covès

Foreword by Raychelle Burks

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Pink warships that vanish at dusk, urinary maladies of an emperor, and a gold test for cocaine – behold the chemistry of metal ions as never before.

In this book you will learn about the sarcophagus molecule, the Chen-Kao test, and how murderers can be caught blue-handed with the wonders of glowing luminol. You will also meet the hidden chemistry of metal ions in everyday life, from the clever modern devices that measure blood-sugar levels, to the leather on your shoes and chewing gum stuck to their soles.

Expect to encounter a fair share of heroes and villains, real and fictional, scientist and layperson. Such characters include an ex-MI5 employee running a hospital ward in London amid falling German V1 rockets, a notorious racing cyclist, a proud butler and the lady who first proposed nuclear fission (it's not who you think it is).

With engaging, humorous and intelligent prose, the reader will discover the fascinating back-stories of chemical discoveries and inventions where metal ions have played a major role.

"This book is quirky and fascinating in equal measure – a treat for the chemistry enthusiast"

Mark Miodownik, University College London, UK

"Engaging, entertaining, charming, insightful and scientifically accurate. I love it!"

Omar M. Yaghi, University of California, Berkeley, USA

"A great addition to the library of science-loving and chemistry-curious readers, this is a fascinating book by Öhrström and Covès"

Matthew Hartings, American University, Washington DC, USA

Detective rhubarb illustration

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ISBN 978-1-78801-094-8



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